

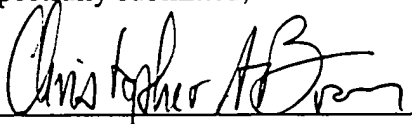
## REMARKS

As indicated above, the present application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/837,922 ("the parent application"). This application also claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/263,906, filed January 24, 2001 and to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/198,525, filed April 19, 2000.

Claims 1-5 originally offered in the parent application and included with the present application have been cancelled without prejudice to later inclusion in this or a continuing application. Claims 6-22 have been added. Each of the new claims is supported by the originally-filed specification and the applications to which benefit is claimed. No new matter has been added.

A total of 17 claims, of which five are independent, are now pending in this application, and the appropriate fees for those claims have been paid. Accordingly, examination and an early action toward a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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006037-000176.CAB.243412